

Focus on Fifth

Weekly News for Holmes Fifth-Grade Families

News and Events in the 5th Grade

October 15, 2012

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Important Dates

October 15 Picture Day
October 16-19 PTO Book Fair
October 16-18 Parent-Teacher Conferences
October 18 Half Day of School
October 19 Half Day of School
October 31 Bowling Outing

Dear Families,

We look forward to seeing you all at conferences. Please remember that Thursday and Friday are half days. Students will be dismissed at 11.

Our PTO has been hard at work organizing the Book Fair, which will take place October 16-19. Be sure to check out the selection.

Art - We are just finishing up our Optical Illusions art project. Our two-dimensional Op Art projects achieve the illusion of three-dimensions and are on display by the main office. We have received many compliments. Check them out on [here](#)!

Music - [Check out the website!](#) We are using recorders again in music this week. If your child cannot find theirs they may bring in 6 dollars cash or check to District 97 to purchase a new one. You may also click here to buy a [recorder online from the Holmes store](#). Please do not buy any recorder other than the ones being sold through school. If financial assistance is needed, email Mrs. Karia at akaria@op97.org. **NEW INFORMATION! If your child does not have their recorder in class they will be given a loaner recorder for the day. Please email Mrs. Karia if you want more information.**

Chorus- Chorus' first concert is at the Oak Park Arms Saturday, October 27th. Please go to the chorus website for the [lyrics to the songs we are singing as well as the permission slip](#) if you have not signed one for your child yet.

Spanish - The fifth graders continue to work with *La Montaña Hamburguesa*. Students can read the story to someone for 10 extra puntos! Check it out on the Spanish blog:
<http://www.mpoleski.blogspot.com/>

Library - Reading Olympics: The school competition will take place Tuesday, November 20 at 12:45 pm in the Holmes library; parents/guardians are welcome to attend. The area-wide competition is open to the public and will be held on Friday, December 7, with time details will follow.

Go to the library blog for a special treat (Neil Gaiman reading the first chapter of *The Graveyard Book*!): holmesmediacenter.blogspot.com. Please keep up with us on the library home page (<http://www.op97.org/holmes/mediacenter/>). Feel free to email the teacher librarian, Ms. Maneck, at mmaneck@op97.org with questions.

Physical Education - Please see Mr. Williams' link (www.d97mrwilliams.blogspot.com) for information.

Reading/Literature

This week we will continue on with our first reading unit, "Courage" and looking for examples to help us answer the question "What does it mean to be courageous." During the fourth week, students will read different stories about helping friends. The comprehension skill we will be focusing on this week is figuring out the problem and solution in a story.

We will have our final literature circle discussion around the book, The Breadwinner on **Wednesday, October 17**. Students are expected to have finished the book and completed their role sheets and quality questions before the discussion. Students who work with Ms. Circo meet to discuss their week's reading each Monday.

Language Arts

This week in language arts we are working on improving voice in our writing. Voice is the writer coming through the words, the sense that a real person is speaking to us and cares about the message. It is the heart and soul of the writing. Students also will continue to revise their Memorable Moment paragraphs and publish a final draft this week.

Math

We will continue to work on division this week. Today, we focused on division of decimals. We used a strategy of making a magnitude estimate and solving the division problem as a whole number problem. We then reinserted the decimal to match the magnitude estimate. Tomorrow, we will work on using long division to solve problems with decimal divisors and dividends. There will be a short quiz at the end of the week, and our unit test will be on Friday, October 26.

Science

This week, we will continue to work on our research papers. A rough draft of the five-paragraph paper (with note cards and source cards) will be due Friday, October 26. Students may need to work at the Oak Park Public Library if they are not making adequate progress at school. This Tuesday, we will have a NICOR Gas Think Energy presentation. Students will receive a box of tools to analyze energy use in the home.

Social Studies

Big Question: None

Monday will be our only day of social studies this week due to half days on Thursday and Friday, and the NICOR gas presentation on Tuesday. On Monday, students will have an opportunity to finish their test, and a few final students will present their treasure chests. Next week we begin our study of the presidents and the electoral process.

Visit the **Holmes Digital Backpack** - <http://www.op97.org/holmes/digitalbackpack/>
We're on the Web!

Visit us at: <http://holmes5thgrade.wikispaces.com/>

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